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DATE OF SIGNATURE

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

) Group Art Unit:
) )
) )
) (Our Docket No. 6495-0038)

Hartford, Connecticut, August 10, 2004

Commissioner for Patents P.O. BOX 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## SECOND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

## SIR:

Applicant(s) submits herewith Form PTO/SB/08A identifying patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

## Under 37 CFR 1.97 (b)

✓ This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application, or the date of entry into the national stage of an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last.

Under 37 CFR 1.97 (c)  This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after three months of the filing date of this national application, or the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application, or after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurred last, but before the mailing date of either a final action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311 whichever occurs first.
☐ A certification as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e) is set forth below. ☐ Fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (\$180.00).
Under 37 CFR 1.97(d)  This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed <i>after</i> a final action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first, but before, of simultaneously with, the payment of the issue fee. Applicant hereby petitions for the consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement, 37 CFR 1.97(d)(ii). Accertification as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e) is set forth below.
☐ Fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i) (\$180.00)
CERTIFICATION (37 CFR 1.97(e))
Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statemen was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement. A copof the relevant search report is enclosed herewith.
No item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statemer was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more that three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

Under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i)

✓ Copies of the U.S. patents identified on the attached PTO/SB/08A form are not being submitted at this time. Should the Examiner require said U.S. patent copies, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner contact Applicants' Representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard R. Michaud Registration No. 40,088 Attorney for Applicants

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collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number. Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449A/PTO Application Number 10/693,349 Filing Date 10/24/2003 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE First Named Inventor Soeren M. Larsen STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Art Unit 3754 Examiner Name (Use as many sheets as necessary) 1 Attorney Docket Number 6495-0038

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS** Examiner Document Number Publication Date Name of Patentee or Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Initials' No. MM-DD-YYYY Applicant of Cited Document Relevant Passages or Relevant Number-Kind Code<sup>2 (f known)</sup> Figures Appear <sup>US-</sup> 2,799,466 F.R. Hickerson 07-16-1957 US- 2,921,466 H.N. Nerwin, Jr. 01-19-1960 <sup>US-</sup> 4,194,694 03-25-1980 Hickerson <sup>US-</sup> 4,651,768 03-24-1987 Epe US-US-US-US-US-US. US-US-US-US-US-US-

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document  Country Code <sup>3</sup> 'Number <sup>4</sup> 'Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>®</sup>		
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant, 1 Applican s unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.